

Pesticide Notification—Your Rights & Responsibilities

It's All about Communication!

Maybe your next door neighbors apply pesticides to their lawn or trees. Or there's a farm or orchard near your home where pesticides might be used for crop protection. You've wondered about the pesticides that are applied outdoors in your vicinity and want to know in advance when these products are used.



You have the right to know, but you also have the responsibility to take the first step in opening communication with your neighbor. [Maine law](#) assures you that right in two ways:

[Request for Notification](#) (for all outdoor pesticide applications)

[Maine Pesticide Notification Registry](#) (for most non-agricultural pesticide applications)

Whichever of the two means of notification you choose, you will find that communication between you and your neighbors who use pesticides will help avoid one of the most common issues that arises between neighbors—being surprised when something unexpected occurs. Communication informs the people who use pesticides of your desire to be notified. And, you can then take measures to protect yourself and your family from unintended or incidental exposure by closing windows, taking clothes off the laundry line, or keeping children and pets indoors.

Pesticides are used every day in Maine for control of insects, weeds, and other pests, to protect our food supply, ourselves, and our homes and gardens. Examples of people who use pesticides include homeowners, renters, landscape and lawn care professionals, farmers (conventional and organic), foresters, utilities and rights-of-way managers, and public land managers. Similarly, examples of places where pesticides may be used include businesses, homes, farms, institutions, and public spaces.

Everyone has the right to use pesticides, but with that right comes the responsibility to follow the pesticide application laws, including reading and following label directions, and notifying nearby neighbors who request it.

Ways to Receive Notification about Pesticide Applications

1. Let your neighbors know you wish to be notified prior to a pesticides application.

As a homeowner or legal occupant you may request to be notified about any outdoor pesticide application which may occur within 500 feet and/or within 1000 feet any aerial application, of your property. The request may be in any fashion so long as it informs the person receiving the request of your interest in being notified prior to pesticide application.

Your request to be notified should include your name, address, and telephone number. You can expect to be notified prior to application with details about the approximate day and time, the

pesticide(s) that may be applied, and manner of application in general terms. The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the application should be included, in the event more information is required about the pesticide. Where applicable, notification may contain multiple application dates and time, for up to one growing season.

- **Procedure of Response**

Once a request for notification is given, the receiver shall respond within one week where feasible, but not less than one day prior to application of a pesticide. The response should include the above requested provisions and provide the requester with the approximate date(s) of application, the pesticide that may be applied and the general manner of application.

2. Maine Pesticide Notification Registry for outdoor non-Agricultural Pesticide Applications

- Individuals requesting to be listed in the Registry shall pay \$20 and furnish their name, listed registry address, telephone number, designated contact person, and the names and addresses of all landowners/lessees within 250 feet of boundary of the listed residence. You may use the notification form at:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/documents2/notification/RegistrantForm_generic.pdf

Once request is processed the Registry will provide a letter of confirmation that includes details of the registry program and responsibilities to notify. Copies of this letter should be given to the neighbors that were listed on the registration form in order to let them know about the existence of the *Maine Pesticide Notification Registry* and your desire to be notified.

- Effective notification period is one year from March 1 through February 28 of the following year. The registration notification form must be received by the Maine Board of Pesticide Control, by December 31st of the previous year. Renewals to remain on the Registry for the following year will be mailed on or before November 1st for reapplication and payment of the annual fee. It must be received by December 31st.
- Registry names are provided to licensed Commercial Master Applicators. Applicators will notify the individuals in the registry that are located within 250 feet prior to applying an outdoor, non-agricultural pesticide.

3. Exceptions to Pesticide Notification:

- Applications of pesticides indoors, agricultural applications, general use pesticides by hand for control of stinging insects, pesticidal baits, flea collars and pesticidal pet supplies, applications of disinfectants, germicides, bactericides such as bleach. A complete list of exceptions is at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/public/notification.shtml#byrequest>

For a copy of the regulation that assures your right to notification, call the BPC at **207-287-2731** or download [Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications](#) [Word].